

A Happy and Victorious New Year!

A Semi-Monthly
SUMMARY
of World-Wide
Motion Picture
NEWS

THE CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE EXHIBITOR

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of the
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'Hudson's Bay' Gets Preem in 7 Canadian Cities Jan. 16

16 MM. ENTERTAINS CANADA'S UNIFORMED MEN

ONT. GOV'T. TO TRAIN PROJECTIONISTS

EDIT VIEWS

CHANGING SYMBOLS IN A CHANGING WORLD

By S. H. FALK

We are beginning to hear more and more about the present war being a war of "ideologies". The word has only recently come into prominence and is still troubling many people.

It is difficult for the layman to grasp the theories which go to make up a whole system of economics, or several opposing systems, and to weigh their relative values. Ideas, opinions or just unformed desires, common to all of us, seek some convenient nucleus around which to fasten themselves, something easier to grasp than an ideology. Such nuclei or symbols representing systems of thought, have been used in the past and are now being held up as convenient hooks upon which people may hang their hopes and faith.

The forging of the latest symbol, the Nazi swastika, has caused a revolution among the cells of the body politic and a re-shuffle or a re-division of the masses clinging to all other symbols. Cells that had pre-

(cont. on page 2, col. 1)

GLAZER TO MASTERS POST AS CANADIAN GEN. MGR., U.A.

Masters Feted by Canadian
Industry Heads

Haskell Masters, Canadian general manager of United Artists has been called to fill the position of Western division manager in the United States, replacing Jack Schlaifer who

(cont. on page 3)

Organized Labor Protests Hepburn Plan to Train Men in 12-Month Courses for \$100 — Object Said To Be "Smashing of Union"

— No Shortage in Qualified Operators Says Covert

CANADA TO HAVE NEW FILM COMMISSIONER

Colonel Cooper Probably in
Line for Appointment

With the resignation of John Grierson of London, England, as Canada's film commissioner, because he felt that his

(cont. on page 4)

"With twenty-six qualified projectionists unemployed at present in the city of Toronto and fifteen apprentices shortly to be qualified, there is no need here for a Government-sponsored school for projectionists such as Premier Mitchell Hepburn is planning," said W. P. Covert, business agent of the Toronto local of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union, in a statement to this paper.

"Whatever single person or group has instigated this move, we of the union and executives of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada with which body we are affiliated, can see in the plan only one motive, that is an attack on our union. We are not going to take this lying down. Such a Government course as is now contemplated obviously is directed toward an increase in the number of qualified men, intensifying competition for jobs, thus forcing wages down."

There has been no official statement from Queens Park where O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario Motion Picture Censorship Board has referred inquirers to Premier Hepburn who is absent from the city at present. The proposed school would come under Mr.

(cont. on page 4)

'HUDSON'S BAY' GETS 7 SIMULTANEOUS OPENINGS IN CANADA

Seven Key Western Cities Get Simultaneous Premieres of
20th-Fox Saga of Hudson Bay Company —
Toronto Writer Does Script

Following in the trail blazed by Para's "NWMP", the second big Canadian subject done proud by Hollywood, "Hudson's Bay", will be given one

of the biggest, if not the biggest simultaneous premiere ever accorded a picture.

Seven Capitol first-run theatres

(cont. on page 3)



POLLS BY THIS PAPER TO
WELL. PLEASE FILL IN

NS & TOP STARS, GOING
NOT ALREADY DONE SO.



THE CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE EXHIBITOR

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EDIT VIEWS

(cont. from page 1)

viously adhered to older ideological or religious nuclei or symbols have been thrown into a state of confusion just as a bunch of iron filings would begin to jump around and realign themselves were a new and powerful magnet to be placed under a sheet of paper on which they had already grouped themselves in relationship to other magnets. For each ideology, having its own sign, symbol or slogan, if it has any magic in it at all, has a degree of magnetism or pulling power. Revolutions may be described as periods in which there is a tug-of-war between these magnets for a re-shuffle of the number of massed cells or units which cling around them.

In the democracies the most potent magic was doubtless contained in the word "liberty". So great is the magnetism of this symbol to freedom-loving people, that perhaps nothing could have disturbed its power had there not been fostered another and a rival symbol in its own sphere of influence.

The dollar sign, a symbol which has been growing steadily in power and potency with the steady growth and ripening of capitalism, has counteracted or nullified in a large degree the magnetism of the original symbol or sign of democracy.

Liberty, Fraternity and Equality, the mystic trinity which actuated democracy, was denied by worshippers of the dollar sign. And it is because the symbol of liberty had been so weakened and drained of vitality by the powerful counter-sign of the dollar mark, that the outbreak of war found the democracies in a flabby, unhealthy and unintegrated state.

In fact the dollar sign, overflowing its original sphere of influence, unwilling to share its power with any other symbol whatever, had rendered partly impotent not only the ideological symbol of liberty, but also the religious symbols around which ethical and moral principles have grouped themselves. Also it had sent its powerful vibrations across national boundary lines to twist and distort the symbols of smaller and weaker countries.

LIKE A VOICE OUT OF THE WILDERNESS THEN, WAS THAT OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WHEN HE SPOKE OUT LAST WEEK AGAINST THE "DOLLAR SIGN" IN HIS PRO- NOUNCEMENT OF A PLAN TO "LOAN OR LEASE" THE NECESSARY MATERIALS OF WAR TO GREAT BRITAIN.

There will be pessimists who will say that it is expediency alone which prompted the President, for the United States is equally threatened with the British Empire by the power of the swastika. To those we would say that during the first world war it was equally expedient for the States to help defeat Germany, the common enemy. Yet it did not occur to any statesman that money considerations should be set aside for the period of the crisis. The dollar sign was still so potent a symbol in that era, that the

cessor to the PROFIT MOTIVE.

The motion picture industry which has been suckled by bankers and cut its teeth on the dollar sign, will have some ideological hurdles to take as the European revolution sends out its ever-widening tidal waves of change in all directions.

We begin to hear more and more about the PROPAGANDA film, the DOCUMENTARY and the film of SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE. Governments here and abroad are looking to the screen to place the facts before the people; beginning to expect more help from the industry in shaping public thought and arousing public reaction.

Producers and exhibitors will have to learn to think more and more in terms of service even as they continue to think in terms of boxoffice.

This does not mean that entertainment will not remain the dominant quality in motion pictures. But we can foresee a closer and growing cooperation between the industry and the government for the use of theatres in the re-education of the people for the new order now in the making.

The screen is doing its part already in helping destroy the false symbol of the swastika. It has already, and quite spontaneously, begun on the task of helping to revitalize the symbol of liberty by arousing patriotism with films which bring back to life our historic struggles for the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

And if, at the end of the present struggle, there emerges a strengthened symbol representing the liberties of all peoples and a correspondingly weakened symbol or symbols, in our midst, representing special in-

Allied Will Fight Blocks With Blocks

New York. — A bulletin has gone forward to members of Allied Exhibitors advising them to submit complaints regarding abuses and hardships under the consent decree to the Allied headquarters rather than to the Department of Justice.

Plan is to submit these complaints in blocks for greater effectiveness. The bulletin states that by this method "the full scope and national character of the violations can be pointed out."

The bulletin also pointed out the likelihood of a shortage of product when the decree gets under way and advised its members to "save some for a rainy day" by extending the playing time on stronger pictures.

WINDSOR POLICE STOP HANDBILL DISTRIBUTION

Windsor, Ont. — A by-law prohibiting the distribution of handbills and heralds either door-to-door or in parked vehicles, has been passed by the board of police commissioners here.

Hull Nixes Bingo and Slot Machine Games

Hull, Ont. — Bingo, raffles, lotteries, gambling slot machines, in fact all games of chance have been outlawed in this city and a clean-up has been promised by police officials. Hull, previously wide open, was one of those places to go to for beer and skittles and such.

MARXIAN QUIP

Introduced to a newspaperman on the "Go West" set, Groucho Marx said: "I was an old newspaperman, myself, I found out there was no money in old newspapers."

way each can help to revitalize the true symbol of democracy and help to bring about a victory for that force which originally stood for and must again stand for the greatest good to the greatest number in this, man's pilgrimage toward a better and fuller life on earth.

"THE LETTER"

CRITICS' POLL



Chaplin 'Pleads for Better World' in 'The Great Dictator'

The Editor of the Toronto Star Agrees That "Only By Co-operating With His Fellow-Men" Can the Individual Secure Sanctuary

Reprinted from the Editorial Column of the Toronto Daily Star, Dec. 23, 1940.

The Great Little Man

It is a pity that Charlie Chaplin's new film, "The Great Dictator", is not being shown here during the Christmas holiday week. It contains a heartening message to humanity; it upholds belief in the ultimate triumph of democracy and through the power of ridicule seeks to strengthen resistance to the dictators.

"The Great Dictator" is the story of a little Jewish barber who happens to resemble Hitler. By one of those flukes of circumstance, the barber is mistaken for the dictator and finds himself in a splendid place, leader of the party with the emblem of the Double Cross. He is assisted by Garbitch—Goebels, Herring—Goering, and Napolini—Mussolini. They embark upon a program of world conquest and in their course they imprison the little defenceless people, make them hate one another, pillage, torture and murder all who would oppose them.

True to form, the film makes people laugh. In this way Chaplin succeeds in dispelling the serious atmosphere in which the dictators wish to be received. As to this, Chaplin explains: "To me the funniest thing in the world can be the ridicule of phonys and stuffed shirts in high places. The bigger the phony you have to work on, the better chance for a funny picture, and it would be difficult to find another phony as big as Hitler."

And he goes one step further in this film. He not only exposes the ridiculousness of the bullies, but he also exhorts the people everywhere to fight against them and their kind. Chaplin has been criticized for turning propagandist in this film, and to this he replied recently in the N.Y. Times: "It is the story of the little fellow that I have told and retold all my life. But it has a viewpoint, as much of a viewpoint as 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' or 'Oliver Twist' had in their time. Would sympathy be a better word than propaganda? May I not be excused for ending my comedy on a note that reflect, honestly and realistically, the world in which we live, and may I not be excused for pleading for a better world?"

The note on which he ends the film is indeed one which does not appear in many plays. In "The Great Dictator" the hero is not rewarded with a happy ending. Chaplin shows that the happiness of the individual depends upon and is inextricably bound up with the happiness of the masses. If life is hard for a large section of the people, then happiness and security are not truly possible for the individual.

In the run-of-the-mill films the hero represents only himself, gets his girl and they retire to their sun-kissed bungalow. Not so in Chaplin's film. Chaplin's hero is not an isolated individual but one among millions like himself. They share hardships in common and a common fate. What happens to him happens to them all. The hard times that buffet him, buffet them all. Where there exist intolerance, injustice, prejudice, the individual suffers in the mass. "There is no place," says Chaplin, "to which the individual can go for sanctuary, there is no promised land for the oppressed people of the world. They must stand, and we must stand." The individual can secure sanctuary only by co-operating with his fellow-men to secure it. And so at the end, his little barber, cries out to the world:

"Soldiers! Don't fight for slavery! Fight for liberty! In the 17th chapter of St. Luke, it is written: 'The Kingdom of God is within man.'—not in one man nor in a group of men, but in all men! You, the people have the power—the power to create machines, the power to create happiness! You, the people, have the power to make this life free and beautiful. Then—

'HUDSON'S BAY' PREEMS IN 7 CANADIAN SPOTS

(cont. from page 1)

tres in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg will celebrate the premiere of this north Canadian saga on Jan. 16.

Tie-Ups With Post

Jimmy Nairn, publicity and exploitation director for Famous Players, is mapping a campaign which includes tie-ins with products of the Hudson Bay Company on display in the key opening spots. Winnipeg will have a special lobby display made up of specimens from the museum of the Hudson Bay Company.

It is doubtful whether any personal appearances will be arranged as Paul Muni, star of the picture, is not under contract to 20th Century-Fox, his present role being a one-picture deal.

Toronto Writer Gets Assignment

Art Arthur, former staff writer on the Toronto Daily Star, was the first writer to work on the script of "Hudson's Bay".

Story of the founding of the famed trading post so intrigued Paul Muni, who plays the historical character of Pierre Radisson, one of the two French trappers and adventurers who sold the idea of the post to King Charles II, that he cancelled a six month holiday to begin work on the film.

Following the Western premieres, the feature will open in Toronto on Jan. 23.

SALVADORE BROS. SWITCH THEATRES

Sam Salvadore of the Uptown Theatre, Orangeville, Ont., has purchased the Bedford Theatre, Warton, Ont., and his brother James who operated the Bedford has switched into the Uptown. Both houses are members of Exhibitors' Booking Association.

in the name of democracy let us use that power—let us unite. Let us fight for a new world—a decent world that will give men a chance to work—that will give youth a future and old age a security."

This film has been banned in Nazified Europe, and it will all the more be appreciated here.

MASTERS TO U. S., GLAZER STEPS UP

(cont. from page 1)

will fill a new post as special representative.

Sam Glazer, formerly Toronto branch manager will step up to the position vacated by Mr. Masters. Shift represents a big promotion to both Masters and Glazer.

A farewell banquet was tendered Mr. Masters on Saturday, Dec. 29, at the King Edward Hotel where heads of the industry toasted the career of their guest of honor and wept into the liquid refreshments over his leaving.

FLU TAKES TOLL OF OFFICE STAFFS AND THEATRE BIZ.

Pre-Holiday Slump Adds to B.O. Blues

Office staffs were decimated just before the holiday season in Toronto due to a widespread but not particularly virulent influenza epidemic. It was a little difficult to estimate even the approximate effect on theatre attendance as the peak of the epidemic was running simultaneously with the usual pre-Christmas boxoffice slump.

Among those incapacitated were Archie Laurie, Esquire Films, who returned to his desk last week after a particularly bad siege to find his secretary off duty, bitten by the same bug. Harold Pfaff, Toronto manager of Paramount Film Service, E. H. Wells, national secretary of the Toronto Film Board of Trade, H. S. Dahn, general manager of Consolidated Theatres Association and several members of the staff of Exhibitors Booking Association have all been on the sick list.

BOY BRAVES PERIL TO FILMDOM HAVEN

Conrad Veidt has taken into his home one of the first British refugee children to reach Southern California. The boy, thirteen-year-old Clive Wigram, reached New York from Liverpool a few weeks ago after a perilous voyage.



NEW MUSIC COPYRIGHT SOCIETY FORMS IN CANADA

Copies Move in the U.S. to Combat Present Fees For Air Privileges

In a move to cut through the alleged monopoly control of musical performances by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, known as ASCAP, and its Canadian affiliate known as the Canadian Performing Rights Society, or CPRS, new groups have organized on both sides of the border called Broadcast Music Incorporated.

The new societies will control copyrights on musical com-

positions principally designed for use over the air, but the question has been raised as to whether this new organization will be permitted to impose a fee on theatres similar to the one now collected by CPRS for use of its product, and if so, whether the end result will not be two levies on the exhibition business instead of one if music covered by BMI copyrights should be used in Hollywood film production.

RANKIN MAY MANAGE NEW CHATHAM THEATRE

Harlan Rankin, exploiter par excellence and owner of the Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont., has recently taken over the management of the Alexander Theatre in Wallaceburg and is dickering a contract with 20th Century Theatres Ltd. for management of its 17th unit now in process of construction at Chatham.

Prize stunts pulled by Mr. Rankin latterly were one offering free admissions to the first five patrons appearing in bare feet during a snowfall; another was an egg-throwing contest with a tie-in with a dry cleaner. A bowl of eggs on stage and the audience for a target with newspapers passed around for protection and an offer to dry-clean free any soiled clothes, two eggs are broken first to show it's all on the up and up, then the fun begins, patrons ducking, covering up and squealing. Missiles turn out to be empties but those who can throw them farthest get the prizes.

REPUBLIC BUYS COMEDY ABOUT CONSCRIPTION

Republic Studios have purchased an original comedy by F. McGrew Willis, titled "Rookies' Roost", which deals with a conscription training camp.

The picture will go into production very soon, the studio announces.

Hamilton Managers Organize

Theatre managers of the city of Hamilton, Ont., are forming an organization similar to the one now functioning in London, Ont.

Purposes of the association are first, cooperative efforts to promote publicity and theatre business generally in the community, and secondly, to form a compact unit for the furtherance of war service work. The War Services Committee is desirous of setting up a maximum number of these units throughout the Dominion to carry out plans of the national organization.

FRED STAIR, EX-THEATRE MAN OF TORONTO, DIES IN CALIFORNIA

Fred Waldo Stair, who once operated the Star burlesque theatre in Toronto, managed the Princess Theatre, King St. and built the Stair Building at Bay and Adelaide Sts., died in Pasadena last week.

Mr. Stair got his start in the theatre business in Hamilton, Ont., where he operated the Grand Opera House. He retired to live in California due to failing health. Surviving him are his widow and son, Philip, both living in Detroit.

Canada To Have New Film Commissioner

(cont. from page 1)

job of organizing the Film Board was finished and that "the board should be run by Canadians and not by outsiders", came the question of who is next in line to occupy the post.

The appointment awaits the return to Canada of the Hon. J. H. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is now on a tour to Central and South America. On his return Mr. Grierson will be relieved of his duties to return to England.

Colonel John A. Cooper, active head of the Motion Picture Distributors Association of Canada, who served on the Film Board for three months during the present commissioner's absence in Australia, has been spoken of as the most qualified Canadian to succeed Mr. Grierson.

Nazi Roused Over Anti-Nazi Film

Use Stench-Bombs and Itch-Powder

Mexico City. — "The World in Flames", anti-Nazi film, while showing in one of the principal theatres here, so enraged Nazi sympathizers that they threw stench bombs into the house and scattered itch-powder among the patrons. Several persons were injured in the ensuing dash to the exits as unidentified persons shouted, "This is a Jewish film".

There had been several previous outbreaks of this nature in this city.

MR. & MRS. DOTSCHE ON HOLIDAY

N. A. Dotsch of the Hillcrest Theatre, Toronto is celebrating his first wedding anniversary by a trip to Chicago with Mrs. Dotsch during the Christmas holiday from which city he will return here while his wife will head southward to Florida where she will spend four weeks mending her health.

ONT. GOV'T. TO TRAIN PROJECTIONISTS

(cont. from page 1)

Silverthorne's department as he is also chief of Theatre Inspection for the Province.

Leonard Lear, speaking for the Brantford Trades and Labor Council branded the Hepburn plan as "inconsistent" with the war effort now under way. He said in part: "At a time like this, when there is such an outcry to train young men and youth for war industries, it is inconsistent to train them for a non-essential industry."

According to Mr. Covert, Toronto union agent, there are 700 qualified projectionists in the Province of Ontario, 200 of which are in the city of Toronto. Of this number nearly 80 percent are members of the International A.F.L. Union.

About 5 percent of the remaining number are members of a "company" union, the Canadian Theatre Employees.

The majority of the A.F.L. men are over forty years of age and at least 65 percent of them, said Covert, are veterans of the first world war.

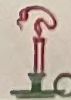
'BLOSSOMS IN DUST' STARTS, TEAMING GARSON, PIDGEON

"Blossoms in the Dust", based on the life of Mrs. Edna Gladney, whose humanitarian work in the cause of child welfare has brought her recognition far beyond the borders of Texas, has started, starring Greer Garson with Walter Pidgeon and Felix Bressart. The M-G-M film is directed by Mervyn LeRoy, and produced by Irving Asher in Technicolor.

FAN'S GIFT TO STAR IS BOMB 'SPLINTERS'

Grim souvenirs were passed out on the "Bad Man" set by Wallace Beery. From a package received through the mail, he presented "splinters" to Lionel Barrymore, Laraine Day, Director Richard Thorpe and others in the company.

They were fragments of exploded bombs dropped by the Germans on London, mailed to him by an English fan, with a note reading, "We're doing all right over here."



Toronto One of 5 American Keys To Preem "Flight Command"

Dramatically celebrating the unity of all the Americas in the Roosevelt defense scheme, a plan was carried out to hold a simultaneous premiere of MGM's aviation feature, "Flight Command", in Canada, the United States, Central and South America.

President Roosevelt had particularly requested an early release of this feature and MGM rushed five prints through for the premieres in Toronto, Washington, Mexico City, Havana and Buenos Aires.

Pidgeon's Brothers Attend Preem

In a strong supporting role to

Robert Taylor, Walter Pidgeon, native of St. John, N.B. was credited with work which frequently equalled in dramatic stature the work of the star himself. Mr. Pidgeon has four brothers in Canada, two of whom, a major and a colonel from Norfolk County, Ont., attended the premiere in Toronto. These two brothers together with Walter, then 18, fought in World War No. 1.

Many of the distinguished guests at the Loew's opening came from the dinner given by the Toronto Flying Club at the Royal York Hotel.

BENET SCRIPT FOR FIRST DIETERLE RKO PRODUCTION

Director of Distinguished Biographic Films to Continue With Cultural Subjects

Stephen Vincent Benet, will do the screen adaptation of his short story "The Devil and Daniel Webster" as the first of the William Dieterle productions for RKO Radio.

Benet, whose "John Brown's Body", written on a Guggenheim Fellowship, won a Pulitzer Prize award, is, with the exception of Col. Lindbergh and Admiral Byrd, the youngest recipient of the annual Theodore Roosevelt Medal which has been given to only twenty-nine distinguished Americans.

Ed. Note:

It is heartening to learn that Mr. Dieterle has found a major company willing to take up his challenge for the continuance in motion pictures of the "intelligent" element.

Recognizing the fact that certain of the class pictures appeal to a smaller section of the theatre-going public, Mr. Dieterle addressed himself to the public through Liberty magazine in a strong plea for the survival of "intelligent" pictures, even though the boxoffice expectations for this type of feature may not be as large as that for pure entertainment product.

Such pictures as "Pasteur", "Zola" and "Dr. Ehrlich", create new audiences for the industry claims Dieterle, and should be fostered by the industry even though the visible and immediate profits are not as great as that on other pictures.

If producers cannot afford to assume the entire risk or absorb the entire cost of producing such special-appeal features, outstanding stars may be found willing to lend themselves to the making of such cultural subjects on a reduced salary basis so that motion pictures may not lapse from the high standard toward which they are tending, to become entirely frivolous and juvenile in their aim and content.

So pleaded Mr. Dieterle in a well-aimed and wholly justified criticism of the purely boxoffice yardstick subscribed to by spokesmen and heads of the motion picture industry.

Congratulations RKO on engaging the intelligent Mr. Dieterle to direct and the eminent Stephen Vincent Benet to script, "The Devil and Daniel Webster".

GLAZER JR. JOINS UP

Albert Glazer, son of Sam Glazer, new U.A. Canadian general manager has joined the colors.

SAILOR BOY

Maureen O'Sullivan's son Michael wears nothing but sailor suits to be like his father, John Farrow, who is in the Canadian Navy.

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DIGEST of REVIEWS

REGAL

"LITTLE NELLY KELLY"

Here is a "natural", full of entertainment values for all ages and classes. In it Judy Garland and George Murphy both play double roles, Judy beginning as her own mother and George playing husband and father. Charles Winninger, the rambunctious old Irish grandfather of "Nellie" with fake heart attacks to excuse him from work, supplies much of the fun. Story, characterizations and musical numbers contribute toward making this a satisfactory production.

"GALLANT SONS"

Designed for the juvenile adolescent trade, this one is, nevertheless a better-than-average programmer. Quirk in the plot introduces the "Hamlet" idea of accusing a murderer of his crime through the plot of a play. It works and the high school crowd staging the play succeeds in vindicating an innocent suspect. Jackie Cooper, Bonita Granville, June Preisser, Gail Patrick, El Brendel and Ian Hunter are among the players.

"DRUMS OF THE DESERT"

This Monogram feature with a French Legion background can be classed as a fair program picture. In addition to the romance, etc., we get here a shot of parachute troops in the African desert. Picture has nothing for the marquee in the way of names.

Season's Greetings

from

Canada's Largest and Finest

FILM LABORATORY

ASSOCIATED SCREEN NEWS

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Producers of the

Famous "CANADIAN CAMEO" Series

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COLUMBIA

"THE GREAT PLANE ROBBERY"

Jack Holt in an action meller staged around a modern airport. Racketeers steal a plane, kidnap its passengers to get a hidden treasure. For juveniles and two-fisted fans.

"ESCAPE TO GLORY"

Here is an unpretentious but rather good action drama of the sea with a variety of people aboard of British freighter tracked by a German submarine. Character is highlighted as revealed under stress of circumstances. Pat O'Brien, John Halliday, Alan Baxter and Constance Bennett among others, act out, each his own destiny in the face of imminent danger. Story bogs down a bit in the middle but picks up again for a finish.

"LONE WOLF KEEPS A DATE"

Latest in this series is on a par with previous episodes. Warren William, as a stamp collector, kids the police and outwits criminals. Eric Blore is his aide and they mix crime with comedy in a kidnap plot with a \$100,000 ransom stake. Where these are popular this one will have a ready reception.

PARAMOUNT

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR"

Continuation of their

brings out the fine nuances along which Conrad wove his plot. This feature merits the extra selling it may take to present it as a work of classical background and superior merit.

R.K.O. - RADIO

"YOU'LL FIND OUT"

This second Kay Keyser feature is a mixture of melody, mystery and merriment which adds up to boxoffice manna. The Threatening Three, Peter Lorre, Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi add a huge dose of background menace against which the light motif of music and mirth romp playfully about. Helen Parrish, Dennis O'Keefe and Alma Kruger enhance a cast which gives plenty of material for the marquee. Mark it down as one of the better ones in the class of pure entertainment.

EMPIRE - UNIVERSAL

"WHO KILLED AUNT MAGGIE?"

A murder mystery with humorous interludes in which Edgar Kennedy, the sheriff, while trying to find out whodunit has a second murder perpetrated right under his nose. There is a secret room in which the victims are concealed and from which the heroine, Wendy Barrie, has to be rescued by her heart-throb, John Hubbard. Willie Best teams up with Kennedy in the comedy sequences. Okay for second place on dual bill.

"SEVEN SINNERS"

Following Dietrich's come-back in "Destry Rides Again", this second Pasternak picture with this star brings back La Dietrich as a sultry femme pursued by strong men who fight for her favors according to the old biological law in which the man with the biggest fists is supposed to come out on top. We see her in this one as a cafe entertainer, reminiscent of her role in "The Blue Angel", this time in a South Sea

setting where she is shipped from one island to another following outbreaks among her admirers which bring the law down on her. John Wayne, Oscar Homolka and Albert Dekker are the three principal rivals while Roderick Crawford and Mischa Auer play her body-guards and supply the humorous interludes. Billy Gilbert, as a cafe proprietor, also contributes to the lighter side of the plot. This is well-done of its kind and should do some business where red-blooded roistering drama is popular. Not for juveniles.

WARNER BROS.

"SOUTH OF SUEZ"

An action melodrama in which George Brent, Brenda Marshall and George Tobias head a satisfactory cast in a story set in London and Africa. Diamonds and love are the stakes and a murder plot is hatched which puts blame on the wrong man, Brent. He escapes, uses an alias, gets rich and is recognized just when everything is going smoothly. A climax is forced which clears the air and pins the guilt where it belongs. A routine sort of plot but well done. Among the supporting actors is James Stephenson who played so ably opposite Bette Davis in "The Letter".

"FOUR MOTHERS"

This third in the Lemp family series is on a par with its two excellent predecessors. Here we get a complicated, intertwined drama touching the lives of all which begins with a family reunion before the hurricane strikes carrying before it a prosperous real estate development headed by Ben Crowley (Frank McHugh). Efforts on the part of the others to save Ben when investors turn on him, cause trouble for all. End finds the family at another re-union after the cycle of misfortune has run its course. The same group hold the stage as previously and hold it equally well.

A Hearty Greeting . .

The traditional greeting - - "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" - - is a hearty one with us. We want you to know that behind this greeting lies our sincere wish for you and yours to enjoy Health, Happiness and Good Fortune now and in the years to come!

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UP-TO-THE-MINUTE MOVIE NEWS

Havana, Cuba. — Anti-block booking and blind selling law, enacted here when the Neely Bill passed the U.S. Senate, has precipitated a deadlock between exhibitors and American distributors, the latter are reported as refusing to do business under the edict. Exhibitors Association has proposed a compromise plan through the Ministry of Commerce calling for blocks-of-ten sales with at least four pictures of each group trade-shown. Unless deadlock is broken, theatres will close after Jan. 1.

Hollywood. — Columbia Pictures will revamp its production policy due to the re-shuffle resulting from the consent decree. New line-up calls for scrapping of studio's B department and a try for preferred playing time for at least 75 percent of its product.

London, Eng. — Leslie Howard is planning a trip to the U.S. on the completion of his new feature "Prof. Pimpernel Smith" being produced by his own unit. Trip would have the dual purpose of taking over the film and to make a brief lecture tour.

Hollywood. — Despite air raids and bombings, Warners complete "An Empire Is Built" at its Teddington studios in England.

Victoria, B.C. — Mrs. May Watkiss, British Columbia Government amusement tax collector was taken ill and died suddenly while visiting here.

London. — "North West Mounted Police" opened here at the Carleton Theatre with a

bang, a Nazi bomb striking the house during the screening of the picture. There was a slight delay while the flames were extinguished, but the audience remained.

Los Angeles. — Lionel Barrymore heard his unfinished symphony, "Tableau Rose" presented for the first time by a Works Project Administration orchestra, with James Sample conducting. The public reception of the work was so warm that Barrymore said that he would complete the symphony.

New York. — RCA's Fantasmound, developed especially for Walt Disney's Fantasia may soon be available to nabe stands as well as metropolitan film palaces through the medium of RCA Panoramic Sound, it is asserted by Edward C. Cahill, Photophone division manager.

London, Eng. — "The Great Dictator" has been booked by Gaumont British and the Odeon circuits in England to play sim-

ultaneously in all their houses, even where the two large circuits are in direct opposition to each other. Deal, closed by Teddy Carr in London, calls for a fifty-fifty split between distributor and exhibitor and extended playing time.

New York. — Berlin film theatres now observe an 8.30 curfew as a result of Royal Air Force raids, according to a United Press cable story by its Berlin correspondent, Richard C. Hottelet. Story asserts that houses are well attended, with advance purchase of seats necessary.

St. John, N.B. — Exhibs in the Maritime provinces who have been donating the use of their theatres, lighting, ushers, stages, etc., for Sunday night patriotic gatherings for war welfare, loan, savings stamps, campaigns, are turning thumbs down due to property damage resulting from rushes for the free shows.

(cont. on next page)



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"SANTA FE TRAIL" WINS PARENTS MAGAZINE MEDAL FOR BEST PIC OF MONTH



UP TO THE MINUTE

(cont. from page 8)

Montreal. — Illness of J. L. Mackinnon, Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is believed to be now in a hospital at Balboa or in some other city in Colombia, Central America, may delay the filed resignation of John Grierson, Commissioner of Canada's National Film Board.

London, Eng.—Sunday movie shows are growing so popular in the nabes that special product used until recently is being replaced by regular pictures and hours hitherto from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. will be shifted to earlier openings.

London, Eng.—Eight features are in production here at this time which is as good as the production pace for the pre-war period.

Boys Town Mayor Wins Screen Job

Tony Villone, the first Mayor of Boys Town, has proven a credit to Father Edward J. Flanagan. When "Boys Town" was filmed two years ago, Producer John W. Considine, Jr. arranged for Tony to be employed at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as an office boy.

Since then, Tony has made steady progress and is now working in the studio art department. But he also has kept his eyes open, worked hard and made a study of the entire picture business.

So when Director Norman Taurog looked around for a technical adviser on "Men of Boys Town", sequel to "Boys Town", and again starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney, Tony got the job.

Tony is one of several Father Flanagan boys, now men, who are living in Southern California and model citizens in their communities.

STAR FOR ZIEGFELD IN 'GLORIFIED' FILM

Charles Winninger, who appeared in the first Ziegfeld Follies in 1920 and return to Ziegfeld as the Captain Andy of the original "Showboat", will be right back in his element as one of the comedy headliners in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Ziegfeld Girl".

DUNKIRK EPIC FOR MOVIE

Montreal. — Louis Golding, novelist, who reached the United States aboard a British liner recently, will confer with American and Canadian authorities on plans to produce a feature on the Dunkirk evacuation.

PARA BUYS "BELL" FOR \$136,000

New York. — Para has closed a deal with Ernest Hemingway for rights to his "For Whom The Bell Tolls" for \$136,000.

WARNERS TO TEST MASSEY FOR 'ONE FOOT IN HEAVEN'

Hollywood. — Raymond Massey will return to Hollywood after his appearance at the premiere of Warner Bros.' "Santa Fe Trail", at Santa Fe, N.M., in response to a request from J. L. Warner that he test for the starring role in the film version of "One Foot in Heaven"—The Story of a Practical Parson.

PICTURE CORPORATION, NEW UNIT, FORMS

Hollywood. — William H. Pine and William C. Thomas have organized the Picture Corporation of America with Pine as president and Thomas as vice-president in charge of production. "Power Dive" will be the first of three aviation pictures which they will make for release through Paramount. Pine will continue with Cecil B. DeMille.

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year

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TO ALL WHO STAND FOR
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INDEPENDENCE



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David L. Loew and Albert Lewin
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and Frances Dee

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"CHEERS FOR MISS BISHOP"

with Martha Scott, William Gargan

Hal Roach
presents

"TOPPER RETURNS"

starring
Joan Blondell, Roland Young
Billie Burke and Carole Landis

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"THAT UNCERTAIN FEELING"

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